



WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1961

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1961

Chairman of the Council

*Councillor Rev. A. Williams, B.A., J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor F. A. Cooper, J.P.

Members of the Council

*Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead
Councillor W. Birkenhead
Councillor Mrs. M. Hetherington (from May, 1961)
Councillor T. Hewlett
*Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett
*Councillor R. Knowles
*Councillor Mrs. E. Martin
Councillor J. Miller (retired May, 1961)
Councillor W. McLaughlin, J.P.
Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.
*Councillor A. Sharples
Councillor G. G. Smith
Councillor J. Spencer

*Members of Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Other Appointments : Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Lancs. C.C. No. 4 Division;
and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Chorley, the Urban Districts of
Adlington, Longridge, Withnell, Fulwood, and Leyland and the Rural Districts
of Preston and Chorley.

Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer : Dr. N. T. W. Pover, L.R.F.P.S., L.R.C.S.,
L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent : G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector J. R. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
D.P.A.

Meat Inspector F. Burgin, Cs.R.S.H.
(to 31st November)

Meat Inspector D. R. Cook, M.I.M.
(from 21st November)

Warden Brindle Rd. Old People's Community Centre Mrs. J. Hughes, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerk/Typist Miss N. Dawson

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale, for the year 1961.

I should like in this brief introduction to mention a few of the more interesting points in the Report.

Dealing firstly with the Vital statistics it will be noted that the population of the District according to the 1961 Census is 19,061 as compared with the 1951 census figure of 14,709.

The number of live births assignable to the District during 1961 was 448, an increase of 94 over the previous year. This figure gives a Birth Rate of 23.6 per 1,000 population (adjusted Birth Rate—22.4) whilst the Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.4. The Birth Rate of 23.6 is the highest recorded since 1920 when 24.7 was recorded.

The number of deaths allocated to the District for the year was 222—an increase of 45 over the previous year's figure. This figure gives a Death Rate per 1,000 population of 11.7 (adjusted rate 15.2). The Death Rate for the Country as a whole was 12.0. The increase was principally due to deaths attributed to heart diseases, 84 as compared with 66. Coronary heart disease alone accounted for 43 deaths as against 28 in 1960. Deaths from bronchitis numbered 15, 10 more than in the previous year. Deaths from all forms of cancer including leukaemia, were 34, the same as in the year 1960. There were only two deaths (both females) from cancer of the lung as compared with 7 in the previous year. Tuberculosis accounted for 2 deaths in 1961—there were no deaths from this cause in 1960. It is pleasing to record that again there were no deaths arising from pregnancy or child birth. The last death from this cause was in 1958. There were 8 deaths of infants before reaching one year of age as compared with 7 in 1960. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 17.9 which compares favourably with the national figure of 21.4.

In regard to the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases, there were during the year 110 notifications including 5 of pulmonary tuberculosis. In the previous year there were 724 notifications. The decrease is mainly accounted for by the fact that notification of measles fell from 522 in 1960 to 85 in 1961. Notifications of scarlet fever were 10 as compared with 41, dysentery 4 as against 92 in the preceding year. There were no notifications of whooping cough during the year which contrasts with 45 in 1960. It is hoped that immunisation will continue to maintain this decrease at a low level. Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis at 5 was the same as in 1960. It is pleasing to report again that there were no notifications of poliomyelitis or diphtheria, but it is hoped that this will not foster a sense of complacency in regard to the need for immunisation against these diseases.

All aspects of the environmental health have received attention during the year and these matters are dealt with in detail in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

As in previous years milk sampling revealed the presence of brucellosis infection and such milk if consumed in its raw state may produce the disease known as Undulant Fever. Until the infection can be eradicated from dairy herds adequately heat treated milk is to be recommended. No cases of undulant fever were brought to the attention of the Health Department during the year.

The matter of the establishment of Smoke Control Areas received further consideration, but regretfully I have to report that no progress towards this end was made.

Reference is also made in the Report to the temporary pollution of the water supply which necessitated boiling of supplies, but which fortunately had no other consequences.

A start has not yet been made to the new sewage disposal scheme but the Contractors hope to commence in February, 1962.

The production of compost from sewage sludge and domestic refuse was continued on a limited scale and the question of extending this process in conjunction with the new sewage works is receiving careful consideration.

Housing conditions in the district are on the whole of a reasonably high standard. During the year the building of 387 houses by private enterprise was completed. There was no building by the Local Authority but consideration is being given to the building of one bedroom flats.

In conclusion I must express my sincere thanks to Mr. G. N. Corbishley and his staff for giving me every assistance throughout the year and to the other officers of the Council for their willing co-operation whenever required.

I desire also to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and in particular from the Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health

Physical Characteristics of the Area

The shape of the district is roughly that of a quadrangle with the longer sides from East to West of $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles and the shorter North to South of 3 miles. There is a pronounced slope in the area from South East to North West, falling from 300 feet above sea level to 20 feet above mean sea level.

Part of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble for a distance of some two miles, and it is tidal in almost all that stretch. The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the area and joins the Ribble towards the north western boundary of the district.

Each of these rivers has given rise to extensive flooding in the lower lying parts of the district in times of heavy rains. The risk of flooding is accentuated by a West wind with a high tide level.

Geologically the area is based on Triassic Sandstone upon which are placed a layer of lower boulder clay, a layer of drift sand and finally a layer of upper boulder clay. The rock base forms an inclined plane which dips downwards from the East towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers stones of varying sizes are found. Most of these are of Lakeland origin brought down by the movement of ice or by its melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. Usually the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, the hill tops being free of drift.

The thickness of the layers varies considerably in different parts of the district, and the three layers may reach 100 feet, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder layer approximates 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder layer from 2 feet upwards.

The two rivers form a flat tongue of land near their junction and the alluvial deposits provide a rich soil which is utilised for market gardening. This land has, unfortunately, been flooded on many occasions to the great detriment of the stock in the gardens.

Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area

The main portions of the district are closely associated with industry, but part is entirely residential. The chief industries are cotton manufacture, especially weaving, engineering, corn milling, market gardening and dairy farming.

There are thirteen churches in the area, a number have attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, social functions are held.

The clubs in the district are political, religious and non-sectarian; some are connected with sport. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in the clubs. Additionally, a tennis club, a table tennis club, and a cricket club are sited in the district.

The district is fortunate in having a number of playing fields, some of which are owned and controlled by the Local Authority and others by the sports organisations from churches and clubs. Good use is made of these for the usual seasonal sports. Some of the playing fields are now equipped with a children's play section.

The local Archeological Society has made excavations, particularly in the area close to the junction of the Rivers Darwen and Ribble, where it is considered that there was, in the period of Roman occupation, a landing place for Roman shipping. The existence of a fort is suspected, its boundaries have not been fully traced. Many interesting relics, pottery, metals, portions of urns, etc., have been found there and are now displayed in the Council Offices.

A report on the first 10 years' "dig" has been published; it indicates that one of the gate houses to the original fort has been discovered. Further work has been done in excavating this gateway during the past year.

Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,761
Population (census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,061
(as published by Registrar General)									
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,960
Number of houses (census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,265
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Book April, 1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,324
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£215,419
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£820

Vital Statistics

<i>Births</i>						M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	248	192	440	252	196	448
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	4	8			
						<hr/>						
Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	5	9	4	5	9
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
						<hr/>						
Total Births		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256	201	457
						<hr/>						
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population crude						...	...	...	23.6		
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population adjusted						...	..	...	22.4		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births						...	...	...	19.7		
Area Comparability Factor for Births						...	...	...	0.95		
<i>Deaths</i>												
Total Deaths from all causes						120	102	222

Vital Statistics—continued.

			M.	F.	Total			
Infantile Mortality—Legitimate ...	...	...	4	3	7			
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	1	1			
						4	4	8
Neo Natal Mortality—Legitimate ...	...	...	3	1	4			
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	1	1			
						3	2	5
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Adjusted ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.2
Area Comparability factor for deaths ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.30

Comparative Table

		Crude				Maternal	Infantile
		Birth	Death	Pul. T.B.	Cancer	Mortality Rate	Mortality Rate
		Rate	Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate	Per 1,000	per 1000
						Total Births.	Live Births
<i>Walton-le-Dale</i>							
Mean of 5 years 1955-59		16.78	11.40	0.05	1.79	1.48	24.36
1959 ...	...	18.90	10.80	0.06	1.73	Nil	28.30
1960 ...	...	20.20	10.10	Nil	1.94	Nil	19.80
1961 ...	...	23.60	11.70	0.05	1.79	Nil	17.90
Increase or Decrease in 1961 compared to:							
A: 5 year average ...	...	+6.82	+0.30	Nil	Nil	—1.48	—6.46
B: Previous year ...	...	+3.40	+1.60	+0.05	—0.15	Nil	—1.90
Rates for County of Lancs. for 1961		17.45	13.31	0.06	2.19	0.38	24.1
Rates for England and Wales for 1961		17.4	12.0	0.065	2.16	0.33	21.4

Table of Decades

	Per 1,000 Population				Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from
Period	Birth	Death	Pul. T.B.	Infantile	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Diarrhoea
	Rate	Rate	Death	Mortality							
			Rate	Rate							
Ten Years											
1891-1910 ...	30.8	18.9	1.25	188	133	27	46	16	211	15	122
1901-1910 ...	26.3	14.7	0.95	128	116	21	98	15	291	16	58
1911-1920 ...	18.7	13.7	0.91	107	54	5	166	16	565	11	46
1921-1930 ...	16.0	12.0	0.72	64	7	0	66	5	310	0	11
1931-1940 ...	14.0	12.7	0.44	56	5	2	47	3	414	0	5
1941-1950 ...	16.5	12.3	0.33	42	0	0	27	1	280	0	6
1951-1960 ...	16.4	11.7	0.09	23	0	0	0	0	514	0	0

Births

The statistics in regard to both births and deaths, have again been supplied by the Registrar General, through the County Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfer.

According to the Registrar General, the total live births registered in, or belonging to the District during the year 1961 was 448. (252 males, 196 females).

This is a considerable increase on last year when a total of 354 was recorded.

The Crude live birth rate for the District calculated on the estimated mid-year population is 23.60. In the previous year it was 20.20. Area Comparability Factor for births of 0.95 gives an adjusted rate of 22.4. Live birth rate for England and Wales for 1961 is 17.4.

Illegitimate live births belonging to the District and registered during 1961 numbered 8, which is 3 more than the previous year.

Still births assigned to the District numbered 9, which is 3 more than in 1960. The still birth rate per 1,000 total births is 19.7 compared to 16.7 in 1960. The still birth rate for England and Wales for 1961 is 18.7.

Deaths

Deaths allocated by the Registrar General to the Walton-le-Dale district for the year numbered 222 (120 males, 102 females) an increase of 45 over the previous year's total. Crude Death Rate for the Urban District for the year is 11.70, the Death Rate for England and Wales being 12.0. Death Rate for Walton-le-Dale in 1960 was 10.1.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1961

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	—	1
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—Stomach	4	1	5
Lungs and Bronchus	—	2	2
Breast	—	3	3
Uterus	—	—	—
Other	9	15	24
Leukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	17	34
Angina, Coronary disease	31	12	43
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other Heart Disease	22	15	37
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	8	7	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9	16
Motor Vehicle accidents	—	1	1
All other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide	1	—	1

Causes of Death

Deaths from heart disease were again the largest single cause of death, numbering 84 which is 18 more than in the previous year. Of these deaths coronary heart disease accounted for no fewer than 43 as compared with 28 in 1960. The efforts to overcome this major cause of death, often in the prime of life, must be intensified. Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system were 8 more than in the preceding year. Deaths from malignant disease at 34 are the same in both years. The Death Rate from malignant disease was 1.79 which compares favourably with the National figure of 2.16. Deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia at 22 showed an increase of 14 over the previous year's figures.

Infantile Mortality

Age					Sex	Cause of death	
20 minutes	...	...	...	...	M	.....	Atelectasis
5 days	...	...	...	...	F	.....	Atelectasis
12 hours	...	...	...	...	M	.....	Prematurity
14 days	...	...	...	...	M	.....	Congenital Heart Disease
11 months	...	...	...	...	F	.....	Meningitis
1 day ...	...	...	...	...	F	.....	Internal Haemorrhage
2 months	...	...	...	...	M	.....	Broncho Pneumonia
3 months	...	...	...	...	F	.....	Congestive Cardiac Failure

Deaths of infants under one year numbered 8 compared with 7 in 1960. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 17.9 per 1,000 live births compared with 19.8 for the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales in 1961 was 21.4.

Early Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality

The Registrar General, in addition to supplying particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age) has also supplied information as to the deaths of infants under one week of age (early neo-natal mortality) and has also included the perinatal mortality rate, i.e., the number of still-births and early neo-natal deaths per 1,000 total live and still births. The early neo-natal Rate for the District was 8.9 per 1,000 live births and the Perinatal Mortality Rate 28.4 per live and still-births.

Maternal Mortality

It is gratifying to be able to report that no maternal deaths occurred in the District from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

The table below gives details of notifications for the year under review.

Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Under 25 years								
		1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	and over
Scarlet Fever ...	10	—	—	—	2	3	2	3	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	85	1	11	17	17	14	25	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
<hr/>										
		Total	0 yrs.	5 yrs.	15 yrs.	45 yrs.	65 & over			
Acute Pneumonia (prim. and infl'zal)	...	6	1	—	1	1	3			
Erysipelas ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	5	—	—	3	2	—			
Tuberculosis Other	...	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—			

Tuberculosis

During the year, 6 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the department. These consisted of 5 new cases and 1 "Transfer In."

Pulmonary:—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Non-Pulmonary:—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Removed from the Register during the year were:—

Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Non-Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diagnosis not Confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

On the Register at 31st December, 1961, were Pulmonary 52, Non-Pulmonary 9, combined Cases 1.

The Tuberculosis Register is periodically checked with the County Medical Officer of Health in order that the records of these cases are correctly recorded.

Undulant Fever

No cases, or suspected cases, of undulant fever have been notified during the year. Abortus organisms continue to be isolated from raw milk samples.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning have been notified by General Practitioners during the year.

Four cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred during the year.

Routine sampling of stool specimens from children at the Day Nursery revealed:

2 symptomless carriers of Polio Virus. Family sampling of these cases brought to light
2 further carriers;

4 carriers of Epidemic B. Coli;
3 carriers of ECHO Virus; and
2 carriers of Cocksackie B. Virus.

Twenty-two people have submitted 35 specimens for examination.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Certifying Factory Surgeon Dr. P. McK. Logan, Leven House, Bamber Bridge.

County Council Services in the Area

Two Midwives were employed in the District.

Mrs. Dobbie, Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Telephone: 85280.

Miss Bamber, 140, Browndge Road, Lostock Hall. Telephone: 85789.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is now radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in this district in 1960. They carried out the important duties of nursing in the homes of the patients.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Meetings were held monthly at the School Clinic, Brindle Road. A specialist (Mr. Robson) from Preston Royal Infirmary attended at each meeting in addition to the County Health Visitors and Midwives.

Routine inspections and examinations were made and patients were advised or given minor treatment where necessary. Any further treatment necessitated transference to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital. The majority of the babies were born in hospital.

Post nately, mothers also attended for advice or treatment.

Dental Treatment was given by the School Dentist.

Child Welfare Centres

There are three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoons, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre the first and third Monday in the month, during the afternoon.

Home Help Service

Home Helps are employed in Walton-le-Dale and district, and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

School Medical Service

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.

Convalescent Care

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

Welfare Service

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who have no longer anyone to adequately care for them. Handicapped persons are also assisted.

Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and District Hospitals Management Committee were available for patients from this district. They were:—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley and District Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes, belonging to this group of hospitals for Continuation, Convalescent, or Specialised treatment. One of these Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital—is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as in-patient treatment, by persons from this area, though the extent of this use was not known, as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals. It would, therefore, be impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

Venereal Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

Immunisations and Vaccination

Immunised against Diphtheria only		Immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough		Immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus combined		Immunised against Whooping Cough only		Immunised against Diphtheria and Tetanus combined	
Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years
—	10	—	—	341	11	—	—	—	6

Vaccination

<i>Primary Vaccinations performed</i>					<i>Re-vaccinations</i>	
<i>Age in years</i>					<i>Total</i>	
Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total		
235	24	9	14	282	19	

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Number
Up to 1942	596
1943—1946	20
1947—1951	64
1952—1956	85
1957	25
1958	51
1959	111
1960	277
1961	35
Total	1,264

Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the Health Visitor Staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical Staff. The Chest Clinic for this area is at Walton's Parade, Preston.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray, light treatment, and general medical treatment were given at this Clinic.

Housing (a) Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year:—								Houses	Flats
(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	387	—
1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:—									
(1)	(a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...		514
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...		592
	(c)	No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...		198
(2)		Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...		61
2. Houses Demolished:—									
In Clearance Areas:								Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1)		Houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	12	38 11
(2)		Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —
(3)		Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —
Not in Clearance Areas:									
(4)		As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	11	10 5
(5)		Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —
(6)		Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —
(7)		Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —

3. Unfit Houses Closed:—								Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1)	Under Sections 16 (4) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3 2
(2)	Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —
(3)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	— —

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied: —

								By Owner	By Local Authority
(1)	After informal action by local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	—
(2)	After formal notice under:								
(a)	Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(b)	Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(3)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—

Position at end of year:

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation—								No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(a)	Under Section 48	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(b)	Under Section 17 (2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(c)	Under Section 46	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(2)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year

No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupant of houses in column (1) (2)
—	—

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions)

Act, 1958—Improvement grants, etc.:—

Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected

Action during year:—

(a)	Submitted by private individuals to local authority	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
(b)	Approved by local authority	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
(c)	Submitted by local authority to Ministry	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
(d)	Finally approved by Ministry	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
(e)	Work completed	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
(f)	Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants:
Action during year:

							No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a)	Applications submitted to local authority	...	...	...	...	...	53
(b)	Applications approved by local authority	...	...	...	...	...	53
(c)	Work completed	...	...	...	...	...	32
(d)	Remarks	Nil					

Food & Drugs Act, 1938-55

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority in this area. Samples were taken by an Assistant County Sanitary Officer.

A total of 133 samples was obtained, consisting of 96 samples of milk (3 of which were Channel Island milk) and 37 others comprising:—

1 Nasal inhaler	1 Dried thyme
1 Steak pie	2 Bicarbonate of soda
2 Compound codeine tablets	2 Blancmange powder
1 Beef sausages	1 Cocoa
1 Fresh fruit	1 Flour confectionery
1 Non-brewed condiment	2 Flour
1 Liquid paraffin B.P.	1 Glycerin B.P.
1 Salad cream	1 Oatmeal
1 Dried fruit	1 Laxative tablets
2 Dairy ice cream	2 Dried herbs
1 Ginger biscuits	2 Mincemeat
2 Pork sausages	1 Tomatoes, fresh
1 Cod liver oil B.P.	1 Coffee and chicory essence, liquid, sweetened
1 Chocolate tree decorations	1 Gravy browning
1 Cooked beef	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

1 Blancmange powder	Declaration of ingredients on outside packet...Manufacturers notified differs from declaration on individual inside packets (salt omitted).
1 Beef sausage	Contained 350 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration. ...Vendor interviewed
1 Formal milk	Fat 2.90%, deficient 3.3% fat. ...Vendor notified
1 Informal milk	Contained 3.9 parts per 100,000 of visible suspended matter of the nature of animal cells with small proportions of sand and vegetable debris. ...Vendor notified
1 Pork sausage	Contained 250 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration. ...Vendor interviewed
1 Informal milk	Contained a dead slug weighing 0.57 gramme. Complainant and dairy manager interviewed

1. Formal Milk	Fat content 2.55%, deficient 15% fat. Freezing point indicated 6.9% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Fat content 2.80%, deficient 6.6% fat. Freezing point indicated 5.4% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Fat content 2.62%, deficient 12.6% fat. Freezing point indicated 9% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 3.2% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 5.4% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 7.3% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 9.9% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 8.5% extraneous water.
1. Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated 4.1% extraneous water.

Legal proceedings
were instituted
Vendor fined £18;
costs awarded
£9 9s. 0d.

Milk and Milk Production

Milk samples taken during the year have all been negative for tuberculosis. This cannot be said for *Brucella Abortus*. Routine sampling revealed the presence of *Brucella* organisms in 7 samples of raw milk being retailed in the Area. An intensive study on one herd produced 8 more infected samples.

No information has been forthcoming from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding their survey into the incidence of Brucellosis in cattle. The report is awaited with interest.

Cream production at the Milk Marketing Board premises, Bamber Bridge, still leaves much to be desired. The installation of new equipment is taking longer than was anticipated, in the meantime samples continue to fail to satisfy the Group Laboratory tests for keeping quality.

Milk in Schools Scheme

All the Schools in the area receive Heat Treated Milk.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

No case of tuberculosis in milk was recorded during the year.

Ice Cream

Producer retailers in the district remained at two as in previous years. Retailers numbered 48 all selling wrapped products obtained from the large wholesale producers.

During the Summer months sampling was carried out. It is pleasing to report that all samples gave satisfactory results.

Food Hygiene

Progress continues to be maintained in this important field. No undue problems are being found and co-operation of retailers is satisfactory. It has not been necessary to resort to legal action in any case.

Housing the Aged

The aged persons' bungalow scheme in Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, has now been opened over two years. Many of the initial difficulties and teething troubles have been overcome and the scheme is running smoothly.

The 20 bungalows are occupied by people in the district who have been approved as being in need of care and attention. There have been changes during the past two years where residents have died, or where due to infirmity the person has been transferred to hospital.

This scheme has many facilities which includes a resident Warden, call bell system, a laundry, television and communal room, and there is a book-case stocked with over 100 books on loan from the public library. Social activities in the form of weekly whist drives, occasional concerts and the annual Christmas Party are much appreciated by the residents.

As with all voluntary organisations one of the problems associated with the social side is the lack of funds to provide social facilities in the communal room. Last year the Old People's Welfare Committee gave £5 which enabled the Warden to buy each person a small present.

The Home Help service run by the Divisional Health Service is a valuable asset in the smooth running of the scheme and on two occasions during the year immediate help was obtained in getting the services of a night nurse at a few hours' notice.

The Meals on Wheels service also helps considerably in cases of sickness.

Schools

There are fourteen schools in the District. Two new schools have been built in recent years and a number of the existing ones modernised. Nevertheless it is still considered that toilet and hand washing facilities in several of the schools are inadequate. Unsatisfactory conditions for washing crockery and utensils after school meals were also found on inspection. A report on these matters was sent to the Divisional Education Officer.

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement of atmospheric pollution has been continued during the year. The Department has continued observations and pressure on industry when necessary, but nothing at all is being done to reduce the insidious pollution from domestic sources.

At the same time houses continue to be built, 1,840 having been built in the past 10 years, this is an increase in houses of 41.6%. It must be obvious to the most unenlightened members of the community that pollution of the air from this source has increased to a not inconsiderable extent.

Discussing Smoke Control Areas, the Council minuted the following, "Council defers for the time being the question of implementation of Section 11 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, on the ground that the time is not yet opportune, because of the obvious difficulties in carrying the provisions of the Act into effect at the present time."

It is perhaps needless to comment that "the time is not opportune" school of thought, has been used to obstruct environmental progress since the times of Chadwick. We have progressed a long way towards a healthy, hygienic environment in spite of such thinking.

Water Supply

Parts of the District are having difficulties in obtaining sufficient supplies of water at peak demand periods. Discussions with the Water Board have resulted in 1,619 yards of new main being laid in the District during the year. The new main is helping to alleviate the problem although it cannot bring total relief until the new connection to Thirlmere Aqueduct is completed.

A defect on the Aqueduct north of Preston caused some concern when the repair cutting became contaminated by flood water after heavy rain. The flood water flowed across manured agricultural land and contaminated the water supply. Prompt action by the Board and Local Authorities prevented harmful effects to the population. It was necessary to boil all drinking water for a period.

When the contamination was at its peak the Laboratory reported a sample as containing 9,000 B. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml. of water.

Public Baths

There are no open or covered Public Baths in the District, but as Preston is easily accessible, the residents who wish to use Public Baths at Saul Street are able to do so. Part of the River Ribble at a place known as Church Deeps in Walton-le-Dale has been found in the past to be suitable for bathing at certain times of the year, but due to the condition of the River water this is not considered advisable.

Factories

The following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1961.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF WALTON-LE-DALE IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	23	1	—
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	—	13	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	10	37	—	—
	112	60	14	—

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Number of cases in which defects were found REFERRED		Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Tempera- ture (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sani- tory Accessories ...	14	14	—	1	—
	14	14	—	1	—

New Legislation during 1961

Authorised Officers (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1961.

Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1961.

National Health Service Act, 1961.

Home Safety Act, 1961.

Private Street Works Act, 1961.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1961.

Land Compensation Act, 1961.

Factories Act, 1961.

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961.

Highways (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1961.

Public Health Act, 1961.

Housing Act, 1961.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the Year 1961

To the Chairman, Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure once again to present to you the Annual Report for 1961. The gradual change in pattern in the environmental field continues.

Each succeeding year brings new legislation designed to improve public health and other services and so to continue the higher standard which everyone is aiming for in this affluent society of ours.

The change which has taken place in housing is worthy of mention. Most of the unfit houses were either demolished or closed, and sub-standard houses are fast disappearing. The development of large open spaces into housing sites and the change in rented houses to owner/occupied shows the right trend in a district which has become noted for its high standard of amenity life. Housing complaints of a serious nature are few, although many complaints are received of trivial matters which take up considerable time, but which we are pleased to investigate in order to satisfy the complainants.

Some of the general complaints made by members of the public are worth special mention:

The lady who complained of a Council house being used to make and sell cakes and other confectionery. The position was, that a wholesale trader left his van outside his home and took cakes inside to store overnight.

The person who complained of a snail in his milk. It was never proved how, or where, the snail had entered, but it was significant that snails of a similar breed were found on the front door step of the house.

A phone call from an agitated housewife one afternoon during the summer, indicated that she had lost her engagement ring valued at £50 in the refuse which the refuse collectors had picked up some 24 hours previously. An offer of £5 reward was made and many off-duty hours were spent by the salvage picker and the employees at a local paper mill looking for the valuable ring. Some two days later a very apologetic lady phoned to say she had found the ring in a library book she had been reading on the day of her supposed loss.

Many more complaints of a similar nature were received and all of them investigated to the satisfaction of the complainants.

Concerning food supplies particularly meat and meat products, a vigilant control is exercised on these raw and cooked commodities. Many samples were submitted for bacteriological examination to detect the presence or absence of harmful food poisoning organisms. Due to the increase in food poisoning throughout the country particularly of the salmonellae type it is necessary to exercise this control. Fortunately no unsatisfactory samples were found.

Water supply to the district maintained in a wholesome condition throughout the year became off balance when a part of the Thirlemere viaduct carrying the water to Manchester became contaminated due to flooding. It was necessary to step up the chlorine content to overcome this pollution. The washing of milk bottles at a large wholesale dairy was suspended for 48 hours, alternative temporary supplies were arranged. Loud speaker vans from the Preston & District Water Board toured the district advising residents to boil water before drinking. Fortunately no ill-health or sickness was reported as a result of this unfortunate incident.

The Council decided to set up a Home Safety Committee and to invite voluntary representatives to serve, with a view to reducing the large number of home accidents which could, with care, be avoided. Publicity on the right lines can ensure a reduction in these accidents. The Committee was not set up before the end of the year.

Further details of the work of the department, under the various sub-headings, will be found in the following pages.

May I conclude the preamble to the report by thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their constant help during the year. To Mr. Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, I extend my grateful thanks for his untiring help and his keen interest in the work of the department.

To Mr. Williams, my Deputy, who has been a most assiduous right hand man, efficient and loyal in his duties. Mr. Cook, the Meat & Food Inspector has been a keen and efficient officer responsible for the safety of the meat supplies, not only in the district, but for a large population within 30 miles radius of the district. Without an efficient Clerk/typist the work of the department would suffer considerably. To Miss Dawson who has filled this position most admirably I extend my thanks.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

1. Visits and Inspections Made

Water Supply	28
Drainage, General	226
" Testing	70
" C.C.	12
" Survey	85
Moveable dwellings	39
Factories	49
Refuse Collection	32
" Disposal	148
Rodent Control—Private	24
" " —Business	12
Atmospheric Pollution—General	17
" " —Survey	35
Schools	32
Shops Act	27
Reinspection	38
Middensteads	29
Noise Abatement	7
Caterpillars	3
Miscellaneous	297

2. Housing

P.H.A. Houses Inspected	161
H.A. " "	89
H.A. Class 'D' Properties	31
H.A. Overcrowding	3
Verminous, etc. houses—Council	6
" " " —Other	12
Problem Families	3
Old Age People & Welfare	72
Rent Act	11
Council House Inspections	19
Re-inspection P.H.A.	42
" H.A.	36
Improvement Grants	6
Miscellaneous	4

3. Infectious Diseases

General Inquiries	8
Sh. Sonnei	16
Miscellaneous Inquiries	32

4. Meat and Food Inspections

Butchers' Meat	15
Food Preparation	13
Bakehouses	23
Milk & Dairies	1
Fish & Poultry	1
Green & Fruit	4
Ice Cream Producers	4
" " Retailers	2

Meat and Food Inspections—continued.

Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
Hawkers Premises & Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brucella Abortus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Diseases of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

5. Sampling

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

A total of 1,815 premises were visited and 2,199 visits made.

Work of converting insanitary closets proceeded slowly during the year. Two waste water closets were converted.

Notices Served and Defects Discovered

Notices:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Formal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Informal complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Formal complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices served on dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Notices served on premises other than dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total defects discovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220

Housing

I think it would be true to say that the majority of residents in the district have satisfactory housing accommodation. As far as is known there is no overcrowding. There are no houses let off as lodgings and we do not appear to have the problems, as yet, of large numbers of immigrants seeking accommodation. There are a few sub-standard houses, but these are rapidly being made fit.

Some 11 houses have been demolished and 6 closed as being unfit. These will be demolished at a later date when it is considered expedient to do so.

The number of older houses in the district remaining vacant for long periods is being reduced, although many changes of house occupation take place there are approximately 50 to 60 houses vacant at any one time.

It is considered that approximately 80% of the houses in the district are owner/occupied. These are well maintained and consequently the number of complaints about housing defects is low. Some 514 houses were visited and inspected the defects being remedied without resort to statutory action.

Rent Act

No action has been necessary under the Rent Act during the year. Three applications for Certificate of Disrepair have been made, the owner in each case undertaking to carry out works to remedy all the defects.

Moveable Dwellings

The term moveable dwelling covers a multitude of structures, from the simple shed and tent, to the most luxurious home on wheels yet designed.

The problem of finding accommodation for the increasing number of caravans each year is a growing one. Many people are finding these luxury homes more to their liking than a permanent structure. Others, due to the nature of their work, travel and take their home with them. They require suitable sites. There is no licensed site in the district yet, although prospective caravan site owners have made application to establish caravans on a site, but they have been refused planning permission. The Council should seriously consider establishing a suitable municipal site available for about 12 homes. This would fill an urgent need.

During the year some 25/30 enquiries were made concerning a licensed site in the district. There has been one site licensed during the year, this is for two caravans only. Four other vans occupied on different sites adjoining dwelling-houses have not applied for a site license and are illegally occupying these sites.

Sanitary Accommodation

There were 40 additional water closets installed in dwelling-houses during the year. It is becoming an accepted fact that an inside and an outside toilet in dwelling-houses is a necessity. Certainly an inside toilet in every house is a "must" and where there are many children in a house an outside toilet is an added advantage to the mother.

A small legacy of the past still remains, namely, the waste water closet. Although there are only about 90 of these insanitary fittings left compared with 2,000 30 years ago, a concerted effort will be made during the next two years to completely abolish or convert these insanitary fittings.

An interesting definition of a refreshment house has been defined in the new Public Health Act. Prior to this legislation the definition of a Refreshment house or Inn was not given. For the purpose of the provision of sanitary accommodation it is now defined as "any building in which food or drink is sold to and consumed by the public." This definition now brings into the scope of the Act other premises such as cafes, etc., which were considered to be outside the previous scope.

Drainage

Septic Tanks

It is interesting to note that during the year four septic tanks have been abolished and the premises connected to the public sewer, but four existing houses, which previously discharged their drainage into a cess-pool or water-course, were allowed to construct septic tanks. These fittings, so costly and so easily forgotten after a few months, are in effect no better than overflowing cesspools which pollute adjoining watercourses to the same extent as direct discharge from an open drain. If a septic tank has to be installed then a proper design should be insisted upon.

Drain Clearing

The cleansing of the drainage system to houses and other premises is a free service carried out by the department on request. There were 175 such requests during the year. In 10 cases the drain had to be opened up before an effective clearance could be carried out.

Drain Testing

The smoke test, and in some cases the water (Hydraulic) test, was carried out on all new properties. The standard of drain laying and jointing on the whole was good. It was necessary in a few instances to repeat the work but this was finally carried out to our satisfaction and in accordance with the byelaws.

Surface Water Drainage

This age of affluence has surely become an age of effluents and with it the attendant problems of pollution.

The pollution of natural watercourses is treated as a serious crime against society and a great deal of time and effort has been expended in tracing and alleviating problems of this nature. In an area such as Walton-le-Dale which, like Topsy "just grewed," past records of culverts and drains are conspicuous by their absence. Tracing, checking and placing on record is tedious and time consuming but it is the only method available.

Cockshott Brook and its tributaries is particularly vulnerable to pollution. It is polluted and many hours have been spent, with partial success, effecting repairs to drains and sewers.

The River Lostock, another pleasant water-course which becomes polluted by sewage, was receiving attention throughout the year. An unsatisfactory effluent from the Continuation Hospital has been reported to the Hospital Board and is under consideration.

Rodent Control

Some 300 primary visits were made by the Rodent Operator and 140 premises treated. Baits used were sausage rusk, bread mash and ready-mixed warfarin bait. Warfarin was the principal poison used but on occasions a new bait has been tried which seems more attractive to rats, namely, "chick meal." It is less costly than ordinary bait and just as effective.

Business premises were treated on a cost plus basis, a charge of 13/- an hour inclusive being made. The number of yearly contracts of £5 for four treatments have been halved from 12 to six. It has been found that where an initial infestation has been treated successfully the owner of the property is reluctant to renew the contract when most of the rats have been killed.

In some cases house occupiers are supplied with ready prepared bait mixes principally for mice infestation. This saves the necessity of sending a man to carry out treatment which is free of charge for all dwellings.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

1. No. of rodent operatives employed—

(a) Full time ...	Nil
(b) Part time ...	1
2. Action relating to rodent control during year—

					TYPE OF PROPERTY		
					Non-agricultural Dwelling- houses	All other	Agricultural
(a)	No. of properties in district	...	...	...	6437	341	100
(b)	No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	214	30	47
(c)	Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	...	...	...	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:						
	Rats—major	...	...	...	—	2	—
	minor	...	...	...	76	23	41
	Mice—major	...	...	...	—	—	—
	minor	...	...	...	4	2	1
(e)	No. of infested properties treated	...			80	27	5
(f)	Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	...	...	...	80	47	5
(g)	No. of "Block" control schemes carried out				—	—	—
(h)	Any other action	...	...	...		None	
3.	Particulars of other infestations under the Act (Sect. 28)	...				None	

Measurement of Pollution

Recording instruments continued to be used during the year. Results provide incontrovertible evidence of the amount of pollution and its variation. It is only by the mundane day by day recording of pollution that the Local Authority can rebut the multitude of voices against clean air who bring up false arguments and unsubstantiated opinions.

Monthly pollution figures are set out in the table below.

Month					Smoke			SO2		
					Min.	Max	Mean	Min.	Max	Mean
January	...	...	...	...	12	56	29	...	5.3	14.9
February	...	...	...	...	6	59	27	...	3.5	16.9
March	...	...	...	...	5	46	27	...	1.8	10.7
April	...	...	...	...	9	39	20	...	3.2	12.9
May	...	...	...	...	3	23	12	...	1.8	5.1
June	...	...	...	...	3	18	7	...	0.8	4.9
July	...	...	...	...	2	14	7	...	0.4	3.3
August	...	...	...	...	3	14	7	...	0.7	4.0
September	...	...	...	...	4	28	12	...	2.2	6.2
October	...	...	...	...	7	31	19	...	2.3	7.9
November	...	...	...	...	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	...	N.A.	N.A.
December	...	...	...	...	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	...	N.A.	N.A.

Smoke—P.P. 100 M.

SO2—Milligrams per 100 cubic metres.

Figures for November and December were not available at the time of publication due to a change over in the method of calculating. Warren Springs Laboratory now carry out all calculations by computer, so that national conformity is achieved.

The time unit used has been altered from a calendar month to the more logical statistical one of a week. Future programming will now proceed through the calendar year in 52 units each of seven days.

Pollution from Road Vehicles

Observations have continued on road vehicles emitting excess smoke. Twenty-seven cautionary letters have been sent to owners advising them of smoke nuisances. The control of pollution from road vehicles is not a statutory duty of the Public Health Department, but it is unnecessary pollution and fouling to the district.

Clean Air

No action has been taken under the Act during the year towards the establishment of smoke control areas.

In the meantime residential property continues to be built, 387 more being built in the year.

Observations of industrial premises have continued, no statutory action being required.

MEAT AND FOOD

Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate on similar lines to previous years, details of the amount of meat inspected are found below.

Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	1,589	...	8,117	...	94	...	7,397	...	2
Number inspected ...	1,589	...	8,117	...	94	...	7,397	...	2
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>									
Whole Carcases condemned .	6	...	49	...	2	...	1	...	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	270	...	4,532	...	2	...	1,434	...	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci ...	17.47	...	56.44	...	4.25	...	19.40	...	100.0
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	1	...	10	...	6	...	—	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	41	...	423	...	17	...	—	...	—
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.64	...	5.33	...	25.53	...	—	...	—
<i>Tuberculosis Reactor cattle:</i>									
	68	...	619	...	15				
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>									
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	...	7	...	—	...	—	...	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	4	...	7	...	—	...	—	...	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

Meat inspection has been maintained at 100 per cent. despite hours of slaughter which would try the patience of an early Christian martyr. With the Inspector being at the beck and call of the meat trade the service is in danger of being considered their service instead of the vital public health service, which it is.

Construction of the new abattoir at Gregory Hall, Bamber Bridge, was commenced during the year with the levelling of the site, construction of lairage and part of the main drainage scheme. 1st January, 1964, is the operative date for the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations in this area.

Raw Milks

Samples taken from Producers in the District.									Samples taken from Producers outside the District.								
Year	No. taken		Satisfactory		No.	%	T.B. present		No. taken	No.		Satisfactory		No.	%	T.B. present	
1949	100	...	85	...	85.0	...	1	53	...	26	...	49.0	...	3	...	3
1950	70	...	53	...	75.8	...	1	69	...	29	...	39.3	...	3	...	3
1951	69	...	53	...	67.0	...	3	76	...	31	...	40.7	...	3	...	3
1952	64	...	52	...	81.25	...	3	46	...	29	...	63.0	...	1	...	1
1953	64	...	48	...	75.0	...	0	43	...	25	...	58.0	...	1	...	1
1954	24	...	23	...	95.8	...	0	30	...	25	...	83.3	...	1	...	1
1955	44	...	42	...	95.5	...	0	41	...	21	...	51.2	...	0	...	0
1956	40	...	31	...	77.0	...	0	42	...	30	...	71.5	...	0	...	0
1957	37	...	28	...	75.0	...	0	33	...	23	...	70.0	...	3	...	3
1958	21	...	16	...	76.0	...	0	53	...	42	...	79.0	...	1	...	1
1959	21	...	18	...	85.7	...	0	28	...	15	...	53.6	...	0	...	0
1960	21	...	16	...	76.0	...	0	30	...	22	...	73.3	...	0	...	0
1961	15	...	11	...	73.3	...	0	37	...	29	...	80.0	...	0	...	0

Pasteurised Milks

Year	Number Taken		Number Efficiently Heat Treated		%
1949	15	...	15	100
1950	21	...	21	100
1951	27	...	27	100
1952	36	...	34	94
1953	23	...	21	91
1954	17	...	17	100
1955	12	...	12	100
1956	38	...	35	92
1957	28	...	28	100
1958	29	...	29	100
1959	33	...	32	94
1960	30	...	30	100
1961	36	...	35	97

Brucellosis

Investigation of infected milk samples has continued. Segregation of the affected animal and the disposal of its milk, after heat treatment, has been obtained through the farmers' good-will. No statutory action was necessary. Our tools are inadequate because we have no legislation controlling the sale of the infected animal, which may be sold in open market and so infect another herd. The cycle of operations then commences all over again.

	Total	Positive	Negative	No. result
Ring test	125	32	84	9
Culture test	75	8	66	1
Biological test	50	7	38	5

Seven of the eight culture positive samples came from herds outside the area. The other culture positive came from a local herd. The animal was slaughtered. In the case of herds outside the area, relevant information was passed on to the Local Authority concerned for any action they may wish to take.

Ice Cream

The bacteriological standard of ice cream and ice lollies remains consistently high. No unsatisfactory samples were reported out of the 14 submitted. There are still two producer/retailers operating and a reduced number of registered dealers, 48 as against 61 in 1960.

With the introduction of the new soft ice cream hawked throughout the district by high speed salesmen accompanied by sweet music, there is less demand for the more hygienic type of wrapped ice cream in the shops.

There were 3 applications to sell ice cream from food shops and 13 licenses lapsed, the retailer no longer selling this product.

Infectious Diseases

It was only necessary to investigate 10 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year. The total number of cases from all forms was very low. No cases of Food Poisoning were reported. The last time we were able to report this favourable situation was in 1958.

Food Hygiene

The standard of Hygiene in food shops and other food preparing premises continued to show improvement. Food handlers are becoming more conscious of the need for personal cleanliness when handling food and it is principally on this link in the chain of food handling which can so easily break down. One act of carelessness or lack of attention to detail can so easily have disastrous effect upon sections of the community partaking of contaminated food. Pre-packing of foods susceptible of carrying food poisoning organisms is on the increase and I think the public appreciate the improved hygienic practice even though they may have to pay a little extra for the service.

A small number of unusual complaints were made by housewives concerning foreign bodies in food.

A Houghton lady found that a delivery of 4 pint bottles of milk contained a sediment. These were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. The County Sanitary Officer took up the matter with the purveyor after small cells of animal origin and sand was found in the milk. These extraneous items were thought to have found their way into the milk through an udder infection and through the use of new milk bottles.

A piece of string and an unusual sediment was found in a bottle of sarsaparilla bought by a mother for her children. The manufacturer was contacted and the County Sampling Officer informed. After subsequent investigation the County Medical Officer issued a letter of warning to the firm concerned.

Another Food Hygiene problem which has caused some concern during the year is the practice at schools of washing up dishes and cutlery from school meals in a detergent only. No sterilant is used except the heat of the water, which is said to be as effective as an added sterilant such as chlorox. The Laboratory experts indicate that the addition of such sterilant gives a false sense of security. I am of the opinion that a food utensil cannot be made sterile without the aid of a chemical in the absence of boiling water.

Food Hygiene at Food Preparation premises is vitally important, particularly where large wholesale factories produce quantities of cooked meat and meat products for ready sale to the public. One such factory has claimed our special attention and visits are made at least three times a week. Regular samples of the food produced are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. This enables us to keep our finger on the pulse and advise, where necessary, any changes in the "modus operandi."

Other Foods

A total of 1,074 items, weighing 4ton, 5cwt. 3qrs. 9lbs., of "Other Food" was rejected from food premises during the year.

The major portion (3ton. 16cwt. 1qr. 18lbs.) was butchers' meat undergoing refrigeration. A mechanical defect in the refrigeration allowed a temperature rise and putrefaction of the meat followed.

Verminous Premises

Complaints received from Council tenants of vermin infestation, i.e., cockroaches, bugs, fleas numbered 1 as against 3 in 1960. Complaints from other premises numbered 9, which was one fewer than last year.

Most of the complaints were cockroach infestations, which were successfully treated with Gammexane Powder.

An unusual number of complaints of ants were received, these were again treated satisfactorily with Gammexane Powder.

It was again necessary to treat the hedgerows for a small caterpillar infestation in the Hoghton Lane district. Whilst this is not strictly a public health matter it was considered by the Council a necessary service to prevent this nuisance from finding their way into dwelling houses. The Ministry has issued a pamphlet upon this new type of infestation, recommending certain measures to be taken to prevent their breeding and spreading.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

A seven-day collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year except for holiday periods. Special collections at Factories, Shops and Offices continued to supply large quantities of paper and cardboard which is salvaged and sold separately to a large Paper Mill. The price received for this material has been reduced by 30/- per ton. Apparently supply exceeds the demand for these products.

The change in the character of the refuse continues. Large and small cinders are being replaced by fine ash which makes the refuse lighter in bulk and is more satisfactory for composting with sewage sludge. Far more polythene bags are being used with attendant problems of disposal. This inert material cannot be burnt, is difficult to compress, and if left loose on the surface of the tip may be blown onto adjoining farm land where it could constitute a danger to cattle if eaten.

The average tonnage of refuse deposited on the tip is 23 tons per day. This is slightly in excess of national average probably due to the fact that the district is largely residential and most of the new houses are occupied by large families.

The Bristol Tractor continued to carry out a first-class piece of work in controlling the refuse tip. Unfortunately in May of this year a fatal accident occurred involving the tractor driver, Mr. Frederick Carr (who had only been transferred to my department from the Highways Department some 12 months previously) was killed when he tried to leave the cab of his machine when it failed to stop near the tip edge.

Sickness leave of Workmen

It is interesting to see the pattern of sickness amongst Council workmen who are entitled to have their wages made up to a normal week when off sick on production of a certificate. There would appear to be a minority of employees, and thank goodness it is only a minority, who are now suffering from a disease which I would like to call by its new name "Pendens-Plumbum." This is the Latin name for a common disease amongst some men, known as "Lead Swinging." Like many of my colleagues I am troubled with this form of sickness amongst some employees.

Here I would like to quote three recent cases of Cleansing Department workmen who have been off work with the following "official" complaints:—

Case No. 1 concerns a man who had been off sick due to an alleged injury of his right arm, damaged on the side of the refuse waggon whilst emptying dustbins. As a result of this "injury" he was off work for 13 weeks. This, of course, was an industrial injury which allowed him to receive full benefit although he had a previous period off sick of eight weeks through influenza, colds and what-have-you. During this 13 week period this man decorated his own house, carried out repairs to other houses near his own home and generally had, what appeared to be, a good time at the expense of the Council and the National Insurance.

Case No 2 concerns a man who had been off work over a period of five weeks with neuritis in the arm and a leg strain. This man was so ill as to be able to dig a large garden and carry out other tasks which he was seen to do.

The third case concerns a man who was off sick on three separate occasions, three weeks for a head cold, three weeks with an influenzal cold and teeth extraction, and some seven weeks off with rheumatism—the latter disease being in the early period of the summer.

How long can this farcical game go on I don't know, but it is time some additional control was exercised when it is obvious a man is trying it on. Officials and Council are powerless.

Composting of Domestic Wastes

Composting of domestic wastes (household refuse and sewage sludge) was continued during the year.

The Cell method is used, whereby 6in. alternate layers of refuse and sludge are built into a heap containing about 8 to 10 tons. After the pre-heating and activation within the mass, the compost is turned to allow for further aeration, maturing follows. The total time taken to make the compost from the raw materials is about three months.

Increased sales of this product to market gardeners, householders and others within a radius of 30 miles brought in a small income to offset the expenditure. One thousand five hundred 56lb. bags were sold and over 20 tons of loose compost disposed of during the year. The Council have not advertised this material, although we are receiving some publicity from members of the Soil Association, who are convinced that produce grown in compost is preferred to that grown by other means.

A visit was paid by Council representatives and officials to the DANO plant at Radcliffe Borough, where the whole of the town's refuse is composted. After a favourable report to the Council on the visit they are to make representation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a loan sanction to build a similar type plant at Hennel Lane Refuse Disposal Centre.

Refuse Collection and Disposal and Salvage

The total amount for salvage is £76 more than last year.

Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	£19,051
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,543
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	£15,508
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,963
Dustbins Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,726 per week
Wages of Drivers at December, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	£10 17s. 0d. per week
Wages of Collectors at December, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	£10 4s. 9d. per week

Comparative cost of House Refuse Collection for the Years 1924, 1944, 1954 & 1961

Year	1924	1944	1954	1961
No. of Dustbins Emptied	2,828	4,126	4,885	6,726
Gross Cost of Service	£2,205	£4,402	£10,373	£19,051
Salvage and other credits	Nil	£1,586	£2,256	£3,543
Nett cost of Service	£2,205	£2,815	£8,116	£15,508

Wages of house refuse collectors and motor drivers

				1924		1944		1954
Collectors weekly	...	...	...	£2	0s. 0d.	£3	6s. 9d.	£7 3s. 0d.
Drivers weekly	...	...	...	£2	16s. 0d.	£4	0s. 0d.	£7 13s. 0d.

Collections and Sales of Salvage, Compost and Tipping Charges

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage:—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	289	4	—	—	...	2,747	8	0
Textiles	...	...	...	13	2	—	13	...	153	0	8
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	1	19	3	7	...	191	19	4
Cast Iron	...	...	...	4	19	—	—	...	37	14	6
Use of Tip	...	...	...					...	36	16	8
Loads on tip	...	...	...					...	162	14	0
Composting	...	...	...					...	199	9	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...					...	13	17	1
Totals				309	4	3	20	...	3,543	0	0

The Council commenced the collection of salvage in May, 1940. The following table shows the tonnage sold and the amounts received each year by the sales of salvaged materials:—

Year				Tons	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
1940	...	...	...	129	3	3	18	...	426	18	4
1941	...	...	...	194	7	3	0	...	828	10	8
1942	...	...	...	280	5	1	5	...	1,148	5	1
1943	...	...	...	376	4	1	16	...	1,424	18	0
1944	...	...	...	463	6	2	0	...	1,576	17	8
1945	...	...	...	491	9	1	11	...	1,607	19	9
1946	...	...	...	335	1	2	24	...	1,360	0	7
1947	...	...	...	398	19	1	15	...	1,685	19	1
1948	...	...	...	510	0	2	0	...	2,211	15	7
1949	...	...	...	490	18	3	24	...	2,343	13	8
1950	...	...	...	412	7	0	7	...	2,108	15	7
1951	...	...	...	385	12	3	26	...	3,787	4	9
1952	...	...	...	388	18	1	1	...	2,521	13	2
1953	...	...	...	382	9	0	19	...	2,331	13	1
1954	...	...	...	282	6	3	21	...	2,256	16	3
1955	...	...	...	280	16	3	16	...	2,693	11	9
1956	...	...	...	240	9	1	21	...	2,790	19	7
1957	...	...	...	292	14	2	5	...	2,999	1	4
1958	...	...	...	292	14	3	20	...	3,021	8	10
1959	...	...	...	291	15	1	23	...	3,218	0	0
1960	...	...	...	305	10	3	9	...	3,467	0	0
1961	...	...	...	309	4	3	20	...	3,543	0	0

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief Report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1961.

1. Highways

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years.

Road Classification	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Class 1 (3.07 miles)	£5,720 (£1,867/ml)	£6,380 (£2,084/ml)	£3,695 (£1,205/ml)	£8,004 (£2,620/ml)	£5,109 (£1,665/ml)
Class II (2.22 miles)	£5,110 (£2,300/ml)	£2,200 (£992/mile)	£5,675 (£2,560/ml)	£2,107 (£950/mile)	£5,612 (£2,530/ml)
Class III (2.39 miles)	£5,244 (£2,200/ml)	£6,420 (£2,690/ml)	£5,130 (£2,150/ml)	£2,889 (£1,210/ml)	£2,279 (£952/mile)
Unclassified (19.75 miles)	£18,295 (£927/mile)	£19,109* (£1,005/ml)	£17,214 (£957/mile)	£17,454 (£1,019/ml)	£5,383 (£326/mile)
Totals ...	£34,369	£34,109	£30,714	£30,454	£18,383

* In addition £5,619 was received from the Ministry of Transport as a contribution to repair of unclassified roads damaged by Motorway Contractors' traffic.

Further work was carried out in the completion of widening of Hennel Lane, and in resurfacing a part of Todd Lane.

The approved expenditure on Unclassified Roads, again included the widening of Duddle Lane near its junction with Chorley Road (A.6), but the work was not able to be done because of the still unresolved difficulty of acquiring land from one owner. The Council authorised the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land.

Two small, but valuable, improvement schemes were carried out in Alma Row.

2. Highway Improvement Schemes

During the year, the Ministry of Transport authorised two schemes which had been regularly submitted for the past 13—14 years:—

1. Traffic Control Signals at the junction of Chorley Road (A.6) and Higher Walton Road (A.675).
2. Improvement of junction and sight-line at Cann Bridge (A.675) junction with Kittlingborne.

The improvement of "Bamber Bridge" on Wigan Road (A.49) including the provision of footpaths was approved and work begun.

3. Street Lighting

The group "A" lighting on Watkin Lane (A.582) was altered from "dusk to dawn" to "all night" control.

The Council's progressive policy of lighting private streets and private building estates as work proceeds, was continued, and further side-streets had their lighting brought up to group "B" standard.

The standard of street lighting throughout the District continues to be an example to many larger Authorities.

4. Private Streets

4.1. Private Street Works were carried out in 10 streets :—

Brown Street (part)	Ellen Street (part)
Oxford Road (part)	St. Patrick's Place
Cambridge Road (part)	Lourdes Avenue (part)
Approach to R.C. Secondary School	Passage behind 2-32 Collins Road
Baldwin Street	Passage off Lark Hill

4.2. Work was commenced in making up of 3 streets :—

Queen's Road
The Drive
Passage off The Drive

4.3. Schemes for the making up of Longworth Street and Bourne's Row (part) were quashed by the Magistrates Court.

4.4. Schemes were prepared for the making up of 4 streets :—

Linden Drive (part)	Passage off Collins Road
Bannister Hall Lane (part)	Passage off Cranborne Street

4.5. The following 16 streets were completed by Builders under Agreements, and adopted as highways maintainable at public expense :—

Cypress Grove	Severn Drive (part)
Coniston Drive	Grenville Avenue (part)
Kentmere Avenue	Albany Drive
Grasmere Close	Bannister Close
Ambleside Close	Methuen Close
Buttermere Close	Methuen Avenue (part)
Rydal Avenue	Lourdes Avenue (part)
Langdale Close	Marina Drive (part)

5. Sewage Disposal Works

Tenders were invited for the complete reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works, and the Tender of T. Haley & Co. Ltd., of Cleckheaton, for £317, 676 12s. 10d. was accepted and approved by the Ministry.

Work is expected to begin early in 1962.

6. Composting of Sludge

Following my Report last year on the problem of disposing of some 10,500 gallons of wet sludge which will be produced every day at the new sewage works, further investigations were made into the possibilities of composting sludge with domestic refuse.

Such a proposal, in addition to enabling a useful product to be made from the waste produced by the community, will solve the problem of sludge disposal and considerably reduce the problems of refuse disposal. As a contribution to the cost of a compost plant, it will be possible to make savings on the sewage works by omitting sludge drying beds.

Following last year's visit to the small compost plant at Kirkconnel, a visit was made to Radcliffe to inspect a "Dano" plant.

Further investigations are to be made in order to ascertain the best type of plant, its probable cost, and savings to be made in tipping costs and sludge drying and disposal costs.

7. Sewerage and Surface Water Drainage

7.1 SEPTIC TANKS

The Council agreed to accept sewage from part of Clayton Green, within the Chorley Rural District, into the Council's sewer in Church Road. This scheme will enable 9 septic tanks at houses in the U.D. to be abandoned, and the house drainage connected to the sewer to be laid to receive the Clayton Green sewage.

Agreement was reached to enable septic tanks at two farms to be abandoned, and the drainage connected to sewers being laid by developers of adjoining land.

The Council's policy of providing sewerage facilities wherever possible, has resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of septic tanks in use in the district. Of the small number remaining, only a few can ever be connected economically to the sewerage system.

7.2. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

To provide for the surface water drainage from the private Building Estate being erected on the former Adam's Hall Hostel site, the surface water sewer in Wesley Street was enlarged. This new surface water sewer should overcome the minor flooding of roadways in the vicinity, which has occurred at times of heavy rain.

8. Flooding

There were periods of heavy rain during the year, but no flooding other than very minor and localised trouble:—

1. Surcharging of the Meanygate sewer, probably caused by surface water from the lodge at Baxendales Foundry, caused a small overflow into the Moulding Shop at the Foundry.

2. Surcharging of the low-level sewer at Walton-le-Dale caused a small back-flow into the basement of Walton-le-Dale Post Office. This difficulty could be overcome now by the owner fitting a "ball gulley," but should be overcome when the new pumps in the Sewage Works scheme are brought into service.

All except one of the causes of minor flooding last year—Fox Lane, Mounsey Road and Todd Lane—have been remedied. The cause of the minor flooding at Rhodesway last year, has been explained to the house-owners, who are responsible for carrying out remedial measures.

9. Housing

9.1. COUNCIL HOUSING

No Council building was in progress or contemplated during the year.

Schemes were prepared and Tenders invited for the alteration of 88 houses which have the W.C.s entered directly from the kitchens. Because of the high tender prices, instructions were given to prepare alternative schemes.

9.2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications were received during the year for 54 Standard Grants and 1 Discretionary Grant, all of which were approved.

A grant was authorised by the Minister to enable a Bathroom to be installed in one of the Council's older houses at Manybrooks.

9.3. PRIVATE HOUSING

The erection of private houses for sale continued, but not at the same high rate as last year. The Government's financial strictures in July caused the Building Societies to restrict the issue of mortgages and this, no doubt, was the main reason for a reduction in the rate of building.

10. Staff

Following the resignation last year of Mr. Colin Greaves, A.M.I.Mun.E., I had no Deputy for many months.

Mr. Norman Turner, A.M.I.Mun.E., was appointed to the vacancy in May.

11. Plans and Planning

Six hundred and eight applications relating to 830 permanent buildings and 219 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Building By-laws.

There were 202 applications under Planning legislation, several relating to large building sites.

Applications continued to be submitted on land outside the development areas envisaged by the Council, all of which were refused consent and refusals were upheld on appeal. Much of this time-wasting procedure could be avoided if the whole of the land for which the Council's Sewerage Scheme was designed was included in the Revised Town Map. Despite the Council's strong support of such a proposal, the County Planning Committee was only prepared to include a part of the drainage area in the amended Town Map.

Several of the Planning Applications were for Reservation of School Sites, and although it is pleasing to see this problem receiving increased attention, the provision of additional Schools appears to be lagging behind the rapid increase in the child population of the Urban District.

In order to assist new residents of the district, indexed Street Maps were erected at 6 positions within the Urban District.

12. Transport

The following table shows the use made of the Department's vehicles:—

Vehicle	Date Registered	Miles	Petrol gallons	m.p.g.	Remarks
Fordson Thames (3 ton)	Nov. 1954	8,227	820	10.05	
Fordson Thames (3 ton)	Dec. 1956	10,728	983	10.90	
Bedford Sweeper	June 1957	6,337	1,466	4.32	
Karrier Gulley Emptier	Apr. 1958	6,430	1,763	3.65	
Bedford Flat	Mar. 1959	11,066	549	20.10	
Austin Mini-van	Jan. 1961	9,123	310	29.5	New Vehicle
Totals		51,906	5,891	—	

During the year, the street lighting Tower was mounted on a newly-acquired chassis (5 ton Austin) as the old Karrier Bantam chassis in use was beyond repair and unsafe.

STANLEY RACE,
A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E., A.M.I.W.E.
Engineer and Surveyor

